of powerloom products and coir geotextiles from the MEP regime. It has also recommended removal of embellishments from the calculations of MEP, on an experimental basis for one year and to review it thereafter.

Private participation in Satellite Launching

1676. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan to launch a private satellite in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for private participation in this area;

(c) what would be Government's role in controlling and using the services generated by it; and

(d) how many such proposals are pending with Government for private parties for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the approved policy framework on Satellite Communication allows Indian Private Parties to establish commercial communication satellites. Establishment of such private satellite system will be authorised by the Government following certain well defined and transparent norms.

(c) The regulation of services offered by private satellite networks will be carried out by the concerned Government departments mandated for those services.

(d) At present no proposal is pending.

Ministerial conference on space applications

1677. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India hosted the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with participating countries indicating whether India's image as a space power was enhanced; and

(c) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would be able to tap more export market for space technology and good relationship with international agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. India hosted the Second Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UN ESCAP) for Asia and the Pacific on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific during November 15—20, 1999 at New Delhi.

(b) The conference deliberated on the achievements of the countries of the Asia Pacific region in utilising space technology for national development and identified strategy and action plan towards improving quality of life through enhanced use of space technology in various fields such as integrated earth observation and spatial information, satellite communication and infrastructure, national capacity building and regional cooperation. The Conference drafted the Delhi Declaration, launching the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme of ESCAP. Many countries expressed appreciation at the significant progress India has made in the development and use of space technology for national development which was highlighted through presentations at the Conference and the parallel activities namely science symposium and technical exhibition.

(c) Yes, Sir. Several countries have expressed interest for expanded cooperation with India in the area of space technology and applications. This is also expected to result in a greater role for India in the commercial sector.

Complaints regarding delay in sanctioning projects under MPLADs

1678. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: